

# The Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1854.

NO 602

## THE WEEKLY NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

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## CONGRESS.

The proceedings of the SENATE on Monday were more than usually interesting. The preliminary measures so promptly adopted to evince the grateful sense of the National Legislature for the humanity and persevering bravery of the Commanders who so nobly stood by the wreck of the *San Francisco*, and at great hazard succeeded in saving the survivors of her passengers and crew, were, however, to the Senators who moved in them, and to the whole body, which so heartily and unanimously sustained the movement.

Among other business of the day, three important bills were introduced from the Military Committee by Gen. SHELTON, the chairman of that committee, viz: A bill to increase the pay of the army; a bill to increase the efficiency of the army; and a bill creating a retired list for the army.

In regard to the policy of these bills we may be permitted to remark that the compensation of the army was fixed some years ago, when the cost of living was much less than at present; and, although the salaries of most of the other employes of the Government have been increased during that time, the pay of the army remains unchanged. This bill contemplates increasing the pay from twenty-five to thirty per centum. That of the soldiers is raised from seven to ten dollars per month; and, when employed as teamsters and mechanics, they are to have from twenty-five to fifty cents per day extra. This increase is deemed a measure of expediency and of propriety. The number of soldiers in our army is now nearly four thousand less than is allowed by law; and it is found that men will not enlist when they can obtain much better wages as laborers or ordinary mechanics. This increase will likewise tend greatly to prevent desertion. The bill also extends the pension laws of 1848 to the army, and provides for the appointment of an additional number of cadets, two from each State, upon the recommendation of the Senators respectively.

The provisions of the second bill are said to be loudly called for by existing circumstances. With an immense increase of population and territory, there has been no proportionate increase in our military force, and at a time when it is so much needed. Our army is only ten thousand strong, and it is now proposed to increase it by adding one regiment of dragoons, two regiments of infantry, and one company of sappers, miners, and pontonniers, the infantry to be changed into riflemen whenever necessary. This will add greatly to the efficiency of the army, and its adoption will be generally regarded as a measure of prudence and wisdom.

The Retired List forms the subject of the third bill, and is deemed one of great necessity in our army, in which there are many supernumerary, worn-out, and otherwise incapacitated officers. The effect of placing them upon this list will be, not only to withdraw them from actual service, with their present pay, but also to promote many gallant and meritorious officers who would otherwise remain in their present positions for many years to come. It is regarded as a measure, not only of expediency, but of justice; and its passage will be looked for with great anxiety by the whole army.

Two reports were presented from the Committee on the Judiciary relative to the question recently raised by Mr. PHELPS, of Vermont, as to his right to retain his seat in the Senate, to which he was appointed to fill a vacancy prior to the late meeting of the Legislature of his State, which adjourned without electing a Senator. The constitutional point presented in this case is, we understand, a new one, which we presume will be shown when the question comes up for consideration on Wednesday, for which day it is made the special order. The majority of the committee report in favor of Mr. PHELPS's right, and the minority (Mr. BUTLER and Mr. PAYARD) against it.

An amendment to the Nebraska bill was submitted and ordered to be printed, which, in effect, abrogates the compromise act of 1820, known as the Missouri compromise, by declaring that so much of that act as prohibits slavery shall not be so construed as to apply to the Nebraska or any other Territory of the United States.

A bill was reported from the Committee on Re-employment which proposes to make a further increase in the salaries of the clerks and other employees in the Public Departments.

The subject of the Central American Treaty was then taken up, and Mr. CLAYTON (though laboring under indisposition) resumed and concluded his elaborate and masterly speech in defence of the Treaty, and in reply to the equally elaborate and very able speech of Mr. CASS. The subject was then laid on the table, probably not to be again taken up.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a spirit alike ardent and honorable to that displayed in the Senate towards the rescuers of the *San Francisco* sufferers was manifested by the eagerness of many members to introduce propositions for honors and rewards to the brave commanders of the succoring vessels. An account of the proceedings on the subject will be found under the proper head.

THE ANTI-REST CASES IN NEW YORK.—The Albany Register of Friday contains the opinions of the Judges of the Court of Appeals of that State in the suit of the People vs. Wm. P. Van Rensselaer. They review the Rensselaer title from its origin, and establish its validity in every particular. This decision of the Court of last resort (the Register says) will greatly relieve the minds of many tenants who have entertained honest doubts concerning their titles. The eight Judges were unanimous in their decision that the paper title is "good against all the world."

## LETTERS FROM LIBERIA.

The following letters are in reply to communications addressed to President ROBERTS and Judge BENSON (the present Vice President of the Republic) by our friend, the Rev. R. R. GURLEY, during the last summer. Some allusions were made by Mr. GURLEY to the depressing effect produced upon the public mind in this country by cases of unusual mortality among emigrants; and the importance of agricultural improvements and mechanical industry, which might render Liberia independent for the necessities of life of foreign aid, was suggested. This may explain the course of thought in these letters, which, coming from individuals of long-established reputation and the highest official stations, will be perused with interest. Many letters exceedingly encouraging, and from a great variety of persons in Liberia, have been received by the Secretary of the American Colonization Society, extracts from which will not doubt be soon published.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

MONROVIA, SEPTEMBER 15, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR: I have seen in the newspapers several encouraging notices of your recent efforts in the South to advance the interests of colonization; and I should think the impression you have made there especially in the case of the *San Francisco*, and the fact that you have returned from Palmas I would have tried to add a few lines for you. Mrs. Benson and my oldest son, now about ten years old, desire to be affectionately remembered to you and family; and with my best wishes for your health and prosperity, I am, my dear sir, most affectionately and faithfully, yours,

STEPHEN A. BENSON.

Rev. R. R. GURLEY.

## FOREIGN ITEMS.

The Tall Vase Railway has a branch from Merthyr to Dowlais. More than a mile of this is an inclined plane, rising 400 feet in that distance. This is worked by a stationary engine. The officials on Wednesday neglected to attach the rope to the mid-day passenger train before starting it. It consequently dashed down the incline with prodigious increasing velocity as it neared the bottom. The guard leapt off the break soon after the carriages commenced their descent, and was unhurt. Some of the passengers, however, were enabled thus to escape, as they were all locked in the compartments, and their shrieks while passing along the bridges over the roads near the town were most appalling. The branch joins on to the main line at the bottom of the incline by a sharp curve. The train abandoned the rail at this point, leapt clear up into the air a great height, the carriages separating into shreds, the passengers being thrown out, and with the debris of the train, falling like a shower into the river and on the adjoining cliff-tips. Notwithstanding this extraordinary violence, some of the passengers were enabled to walk away comparatively unhurt; others were more injured, and two women were dying—one having her back broken, and the other a fracture of the skull, besides which they are frightfully lacerated and torn almost to pieces.

In the course of the proceedings of the German Association for the Advancement of Science, lately held at Tübingen, Prof. K. was announced that Germany had coal enough to supply herself and all the rest of the world for the next five hundred years. The great fact elicited at the meeting was the clearing up of the mystery of the fossil human teeth found in the Swabian Alps, in strata of the mammoth period, and the fact that the bones of human teeth, which were not believed to have existed in the time of the mammoth. Since the meeting in 1852 a number of perfect human skulls have been found in the same locality with teeth in them, which discovery, if correctly reported, would naturally lead to the conclusion that the human race existed in existence at the same time with the mammoth and other of the larger antediluvian animals.

On the field of Europe (says the London Leader) nothing more interesting has occurred than the opening of the church of the Waldenses at Turin; nor is that incident the only mark of the growth of public freedom, religious and civil, in the south of Europe. In the south of Italy, Correspondents mention the freedom of the people in Genoa and the circulation of Bibles from Nice. In short, Sardinia is rapidly moving towards a truly English state of constitutional freedom. There are parts of Europe upon which this country may have some influence, and co-operation in the score of parchment treaty-bound, but on the score of genuine feeling and common objects.

Mr. PRIDEAUX, author of a work on the Economy of Fuel, has been permitted to try an experiment at Portsmouth dock-yard, in England, with his invention for the consumption of smoke. The experiment seems to have been quite successful. It consists in a valve in the chimney door, a simple character, "insuring intense heat and minute subdivision of the air in its passage through it." The door of the furnace remains cool, instead of becoming red-hot; merely a thin steam-colored vapor arose from the chimney.

There is in the crypt of Hythe Church a vast pile of human bones which were gathered many years after a battle fought on the sea shore between the Danes and Saxons, about one thousand years since, and amongst them are skulls of aged warriors, finely developed; the teeth in many of which are so perfect, so beautifully sound, and so firmly imbedded in the sockets that they cannot move there. The owners of these teeth were buried.

M. BARANT, of Paris, left 100,000 francs to the French Institute, to be by it awarded to the discoverer of the cause of cholera or a cure for it. The interest of the money is in the mean time to be used in rewarding or encouraging the authors of any lesser discoveries in medicine. The Emperor Napoleon has just signed the act permitting the Institute to accept the legacy and conditions under which it is made.

The Paris Moniteur publishes a decree abolishing the restrictions imposed by the rescript of February 8th, 1826, on raw cotton imported into France from Great Britain and the British possessions in Europe. According to the said rescript the produce of Asia, Africa, and America sent from England and her European possessions into French ports was to be admitted for re-exportation only.

The arrangements for the French Industrial Congress in 1855 are progressing satisfactorily. Around a permanent central edifice in the Champs Elysees will be grouped the various buildings necessary for the display of the productions. The total area will be fully equal to that occupied by the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park.

A cannon loading at the breach has been invented by Mr. CHURCH, of Erie, Pa. By the use of a loading heavy ship guns can be fired five times in a minute by two men, and a field piece six times in a minute.

A Mr. SWIFT, of Dublin, has an invention by which he can progress through the water in an upright position at the rate of five miles an hour. The apparatus consists of two air-tight tin floats of twenty feet long, tapering to a narrow point at each end, and joined together by two bars of iron. The floats are now here: he arrived in the Shirley from Cape Palmas last week. He thinks and speaks highly of Lower Buchanan. Having examined some of the land contiguous to it, and found it so superior in several respects to what he had any idea of or had been represented to him, he has decided to declare that he is destined to be the New York of Liberia. He has selected at that place a site for mission premises; a good school is to be conducted on the manual labor system, and he is going immediately into operation.

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I have sent Mr. McLain a small specimen of our iron ore from the interior. Our blacksmiths have tried this virgin ore, and pronounce it 20 per cent. better than iron brought to this coast by foreigners. Rev. A. P. Davis has made a spoon of this ore, which he will send by the Shirley to Wm. Coppenger, Esq., Philadelphia.

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wise and noble class of men, the colonizationists, especially of the United States, and is being prosecuted by them in their advocacy and support of the Republic of Liberia. Yes, they are instrumentally prosecuting this good work as fast as their pecuniary ability will allow. I can but wish that your Government (which is second to none on earth in magnanimity, and perhaps paramount to all others in liberal principles) could see and feel on this very important subject as many noble souls in the United States and England. I am almost as sanguine as I am of my own existence that there are several nations now in their glory and commendable pride that will heartily regret in the future that they did not earlier secure to themselves more of the benefit of, and demonstrate more sound policy in, promoting this great and noble work, which is just as sure to be most gloriously accomplished as we have a Divine Creator, Redeemer, and Preserver.

The Shirley having arrived a fortnight sooner than expected, I am pushed for time, and cannot therefore write as much as I wish, or intended. I must avail myself of an early opportunity to write you more fully. All the friends for whom you inquired are all well except Mrs. Donaldson and Dr. Davis: the former died last year, the latter this. There are hundreds of inquiries about you in Basa country, and no one but the Shirley when I assure you that you occupy no small place in the affections of Liberians generally.

Will you please accept a small sack of coffee from Mr. Benson and myself? It is the best of the kind, and we thought you would like it. I have also tried to add a few lines for you. Mrs. Benson and my oldest son, now about ten years old, desire to be affectionately remembered to you and family; and with my best wishes for your health and prosperity, I am, my dear sir, most affectionately and faithfully, yours,

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## THE CALIFORNIA FILLIBUSTERS.

SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 16.

FILLIBUSTERS.—Meetings continue to be held and names to be enrolled in our city, and numbers are daily arriving from the interior who are anxious to join the revolutionary forces under President Walker. We learn that two or three vessels will be dispatched for Lower California in a few days, and they will no doubt be crowded by adventurers and loaded with ammunition and provisions.—*Courier.*

The Alta California of December 16th very forcibly blames the Collector of the port of San Francisco, and the United States Attorney of California, for their remissness in not preventing the sailing of those vessels that were openly fitted out, armed, and manned with the express determination to make a hostile attack on a neighboring nation. Instead of doing their duty under the laws of the United States, which they were appointed to enforce, they would not even listen to the evidence offered to them by Gen. Hittcock, who had seized the *big Arrow* as engaged in unlawful enterprise.

The Alta California justly blames these Government officials for their neglect or neglect to do their duty. They are not to be excused, or compelled to enforce the laws, the Administration itself will become responsible for our grasping propensity and our fillibustering attacks on our weak neighbors. What a spectacle does such a spirit of aggression make "the Model Republic!"

[Hartford Courant.]

MORE OF THE DUEL.—We have already noticed the fatal result of the duel that was fought in Pickens county, (Ala.) on the 21st instant, between Dr. F. W. IRLBY and Dr. F. N. IRLBY, both of Nottoway county, Mississippi, in which Dr. IRLBY was shot through the heart at the first fire. The Columbus (Miss.) Argus has some particulars concerning the affair which invest it with painful interest. We know nothing of the merits of the difficulty, but there is something unusually sad in the contemplation of an old man being supported to the field of mortal combat and yielding up his life a sacrifice to the so-called "code of honor." The Argus says:

"The weapons were duelling pistols, and the distance thirteen and a half paces. Dr. IRLBY, who was killed, was a most estimable gentleman, a member of the North Carolina Legislature, and the difficulty arose out of some misunderstanding in the late canvass between himself and his antagonist, who was a candidate for the same station. Both gentlemen were Democrats and members of the church. Dr. IRLBY, who was wounded, was a native of North Carolina, and had been in the army during the late war. Dr. IRLBY, who was wounded, was a native of North Carolina, and had been in the army during the late war. Dr. IRLBY, who was wounded, was a native of North Carolina, and had been in the army during the late war.

ADULTERATION OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES.—From the late Report made to Congress by the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Army it appears that the adulteration of drugs and medicines is carried on more extensively in the country since the passage of the act of Congress to suppress the importation of such articles, so that it is now alleged to be difficult to procure medicines which are not either mixed with some foreign substance, or from which some portion of the active principle has not been subtracted by chemical process. Thus it would seem that the effort to suppress the foreign trade has resulted in imparting an extraordinary stimulus to the home manufacture of the spurious stimulants.

SMUGGLERS DETECTED.—New developments have been made at New York in relation to the smuggling operations connected with the *Comet* steamship line. Mr. CURTIS, lately commissioned as an Inspector, was placed at the head of the watch for the arrival of the *Europa*. The seizure last week at Jersey city of smuggled diamonds, watches, and other costly goods, brought by persons in the steamship *Europa*, has been before mentioned. Officers being in waiting for the *Europa*, immediately upon arriving at her dock they were on the watch. In the afternoon Dr. IRLBY, surgeon of the ship, who was suspected, started to go to his room, and was taken into a room in the Darcy House, and a quantity of lace, said to be worth about \$1,200, was found secreted upon his person. John BERN, barkeeper upon the *Europa*, was also arrested upon the charge of smuggling a quantity of watches of considerable value. The prisoners were taken to jail in New York. It is said that traces have also been discovered of lots of goods of yet greater value which have been brought into the country in the same manner. Officers have gone to Boston to be present at the arrival of the *Cambridge* at that port, and detect any such attempt at an infringement of our revenue laws.

## MASSACHUSETTS.

THE HON. EMERY WASHBURN, the new Governor of Massachusetts, in his Message to the Legislature on Thursday last, alludes to the fisheries, and expresses the hope that Congress will protect them; congratulates the people on the flourishing condition of every branch of commerce; and represents the finances of the State to be in a favorable condition, but says that increased expenses call for a loan of \$200,000 to make up a deficit in the year 1853. Some changes are suggested in the State Constitution; such as the election of Senators by separate districts; the election by the people of certain officers now chosen by the Legislature or appointed by the Executive; the substitution of the plurality for the majority system in elections generally; and a modification of the principle of representation in the House of Representatives, so as to render it more equal, while it limits it to a more convenient number than the present. On the liquor law the message says that society has a right to protect itself from any vice that tends to undermine its foundation is a maxim which few would controvert; nor would it be more seriously contested that if necessary for this purpose laws may be aimed at the cause of an acknowledged evil instead of dealing with its effects alone.

DESTRUCTION OF A NEW SHIP.—The St. John New Brunswick of the 5th instant announces the total loss of the new ship *Rebecca*, which was launched on the Monday before last on the falls, on the Carleton side, opposite to that city. After safely reaching the water, the anchor which was intended to bring her up parted from the chain, when a second anchor was let go, but this also broke, and the tide swept her into the falls, where the vessel struck on a ledge of rocks known as Blind Island, and became hard and fast. The *Rebecca* was a beautiful ship of 1,215 tons register, and was built by Messrs. William Parks & Son. She was partially insured.

BABY SHOW.—A communication in a Georgia paper announces the fact that the executive committee of the Southern Central Agricultural Association have determined to offer some very handsome premiums on babies at the next meeting of the Fair. This is a new feature in Agriculture shows. The first premium, a silver pitcher costing \$50, is to be awarded to the "handsomest and finest" baby, two years old; the second premium, a silver pitcher costing \$25, to a similar baby, two years old; and a \$10 gold goblet for a fine handsome baby only six months old.

CONVICTS SENT TO THE UNITED STATES.—Three Germans having been arrested at New York charged with having committed a series of burglaries, one of them confessed that in the year 1851 he was convicted of burglary in the city of Brunswick, Germany, and sentenced to the State prison for a term of years; that, after remaining there until September of last year, he was pardoned by the Duke of Brunswick on condition that he should emigrate to the United States and never return. He goes on in his affidavit to say:

"Accordingly we were all taken from prison by the police and conveyed to Bremen, and there put on board the *brigs* Hiram, and kept under the surveillance of the police until the vessel sailed. Our passage was paid by the Directors, and we each received from them \$5. We landed in New York on the 1st of December last."

## FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, DECEMBER 29, 1853.

We believe there is only one feeling in England respecting the President's message, and that is pleasure at the general prosperity of the country which it so elaborately enunciates. The vast increase of the population, both by immigration and by birth, is an advantage in a material sense; and in a moral sense it can be nothing but a good, so long as the institutions of the country afford a sufficient bond to hold the various social elements together, and we see no evidence of this ceasing to be the case, but, decidedly the contrary. The heterogeneous quality of society which is taken for granted to be the main cause of the supposed weakness of Turkey is the chief ground of strength in the United States. All nations and races contribute their powers and characteristics to consolidate a nationality which there is no political despotism to repress. Under all the wide range of circumstances and conditions and modes of life which your extensive territory offers, there is always somebody found to accept of them, and to endeavor to mitigate and improve them. Some of your people, both native and imported, like winter heat, and some summer; some prefer the granite of the North, others the alluvions of the West; some live most comfortably and prosperously upon the prairie, others on the rivers, and others on the mountains. Manufacturers, commerce, and agriculture, each and all find their numerous bands of prosperous followers. In the entire prodigious extent and variety of your national territory there is scarcely a nook of soil or a phase of society which does not suit some resident of one constitution and character or another. This being the case, the resources of the entire country are sure to be made more or less available; and the consequence is a continuous prosperity, such as the President's speeches always report, and which is so fully manifested in the one just received.

We turn to a less pleasant subject, the very unsatisfactory state of European, and particularly English, political affairs. We speak thus emphatically, for never did the people of England know less than they do at present of the real views and intentions of their rulers. For the fourth time within a brief period, LORD PALMERSTON has astonished and perplexed the political world; twice by resigning office, and twice by accepting it; for he has again resumed the seals of the Home Department. The mere fact of his being again part and parcel of the Government of the country gives satisfaction, we think, to three-fourths at least of the people; but the "why" he resigned and the "wherefore" which induced him to return to office are secrets which, as yet, can only be guessed at. It is certain, however, that the Ministry, whose speedy downfall was fearfully prognosticated, has been reconstituted in its original integrity, and the Cabinet, which was said to be torn by internal dissensions, both on domestic and foreign questions, is as harmonious in its views (for so it is reported to be) as it is complete in its numbers.

We have said that the cause of LORD PALMERSTON's tendering his resignation to her Majesty was something more important than a difference of opinion upon a question of home policy between himself and his colleagues, admitting that such a difference really existed, of which we are not sure. One paper boldly asserts that despatches, the seals of which should not have been broken by any one but the chief of the Home Department, had been seen by others before they reached that office. Some persons will have it that her Majesty is decidedly averse to a temporizing and pacific policy. Others bring in the name of Prince ALBERT, and say that the resignation was occasioned in consequence of certain documents touching the Eastern question having been submitted to the Prince previous to their being brought before the Cabinet Council, a proceeding which LORD PALMERSTON considered unconstitutional. This last is, probably, only a variation of the first rumor. From all we can hear and see, we think the most probable, certainly the one which gains most credence, is that which attributes the resignation of LORD PALMERSTON to direct interference with the political affairs of the country by Prince ALBERT. We say this as much in sorrow as in anger. A writer in the *Daily News* says:

"The impression, the suspicion, the persuasion, the apprehension, or the belief, for it takes a great variety of forms, that the Prince Consort has recently trespassed into the bounds of political affairs, from which he is prohibited by the constitution and his duty, is now so general that it is impossible any longer to confine it to conversation. Go where you will, into good or bad society, amongst rich or poor, the feeling or the fear that it is the Court, and not the responsible Ministers of the Crown, who are giving the impetus and the tone to the foreign policy of England, is now a topic of conversation. People cannot get rid of an apprehension that something is going very wrong in this the highest quarter of the State; confidence in the Prince is giving way; and, instead of popularity, resentment seems to me very likely to take possession of the public mind. Nor is it political affairs only that his Royal Highness is accused of meddling in; and in the army, also, he is said to be interfering; and the recent scandals at the Horse Guards are only and loudly ascribed to him. It is quite time that notice should be taken of importunations so serious."

The Duke, moreover, is dead and gone; so long as he lived interference with the army would have been impertinence. His absence is felt at the Horse Guards now."

Other papers have alluded in strong but temperate terms to this painful subject, but the *Daily News* has spoken out more bluntly.

The delays, perhaps the difficulty, of diplomacy with respect to the Eastern questions reader it all but certain that the struggle with Russia, which early and firm opposition to her pretensions would have made brief and simple, is now become complicated. The *Czar* is now more deeply committed; he will now, in all probability, brave the worst and fight to the uttermost. Russia, it is true, is no match for France and England; but Russia is not easily accessible at home; the Russian people are isolated from European opinion and European progress; they are ignorant, fanatical, and capable of an almost incalculable extent of dogged, pertinacious endurance, and these things confer upon the *Czar* a dangerous power of protracting hostilities. It would, therefore, be the height of folly for England to close their eyes to the fact that the struggle, which has all but commenced, may, most probably, be both long and costly. But there is a growing spirit within England which may be more mischievous than anything from without. We fear there is a desire, a rabid thirsting for war, growing up among the people, partly arising, we think, from the teachings of a party who would rather involve the country in war than run the risk of those useful reforms and economies which are sure to be the result of a continued peace, and partly from the effect of the mere pleasure of yielding to strong excitement. Already we hear defiance muttered against other Powers as well as Russia, and see a disposition evinced to stoop and take up the gauntlet of even so remote an adversary as PERSIA. Should an unreasoning war spirit be awakened in the nation, there is imminent danger of its resources being severely strained, of the reins of power being confided to those who, for their own selfish purposes, would wantonly lavish life and money, and of a counter-spirit of discontent and disaffection being excited by the burdens which would necessarily be imposed. In such a position of the national affairs, in such a mood of the national mind, should the Crown continue to observe the same wise policy which has been so successful for sixteen years, England would have a standard round which all true and loyal hearts might rally. But should the great constitutional principle, that the Sovereign of England reigns, but does not govern, be abandoned,

along with it will be abandoned all hope of preserving that internal civil discipline, the only security of England against the confused and bewildering assaults of internal and external foes. We are convinced that the impending crisis will tax the sagacity and nerve of the best of England's statesmen. They will be called upon to inspire and keep alive national enthusiasm, and at the same time to keep the national judgment cool and collected. They will have to contend against unreflecting eagerness for war on one hand, and discontent with necessary burdens on the other. These are duties to tax and strain the most robust abilities.

We will turn from war and all its horrors, its possibilities, and its probabilities, and rejoice that CHRISTMAS, with its accompanying amenities, charities, gayeties, and enjoyments, has been once more ours. But what a contradiction does a great part of the Christian world exhibit, what an infidelity to its profession of rejoicing in a faith which has for its foundation "glad tidings of peace on earth and good-will to men!"

The civil holiday of Christmas was well kept, at least in London. The holiday was very nearly a general one, LORD PALMERSTON to the contrary notwithstanding. The weather was seasonably fine, the roads hard and dry with frost, and the holiday passed off altogether with great success. Tens of thousands of people enjoyed themselves rationally, and the amount of visible intoxication was very much less than in former years. The morals and the manners of the multitude who people London are rapidly improving, notwithstanding the terrible revelations of crime to time made in the police courts. We are unwilling to think that crime of any kind is on the increase in London. We believe that it is more difficult to escape detection through the existence of a more vigilant police, and also that a knowledge of it is more generally disseminated by a more numerous body of reporters. Some people tell us that there is as much drunkenness as ever, and cite the excise and customs' returns in proof that quite as large a quantity of spirituous liquors is consumed as there ever was. We will not dispute such evidence; but of one thing we are certain, that the drunkenness of the present day, if as extensive as formerly, is of a more decent description, for very little of it is seen in the streets. No fewer than 40,000 people visited the British Museum on Monday. The number at the National Gallery is unknown, but during the day there were frequently more than 2,000 people in the rooms at one time; 27,000 persons visited Marlborough House and the Vernon Gallery. The Polytechnic Gallery, Wyld's Great Globe, the Coliseum, and other private exhibitions, where admission had to be paid for, were also crowded. In the evening eleven theatres exhibited eleven new pantomimes, and were all crowded. Many thousands of the paupers of the various parishes were filled with Christmas cheer, and the universal heart of England, so far as we have heard, once more rejoiced at the great Christian festival.

There is very little new in the Literary world. One son of the late Dr. ARNOX, of Rugby, has published a very interesting book called *Outfield*. It cannot be called a novel, for, although it contains a tale, the tale is the least interesting part of the book. The reviewers pay the author a high compliment when they say the book is worthy a shelf of Dr. ARNOX. Another of Dr. ARNOX's sons has also published a volume of Poems. It is said that Mr. WARRAX has recently declined an offer from an eminent publisher of 2,000 guineas for a new novel. The veteran CHARLES KNOTT has lately published two volumes entitled "Oscar Upon a Tree," which are highly spoken of as valuable additions to that class of useful literature which Mr. Knight has so long labored to promote. No man has done more than he to make sound knowledge popular by presenting it in an attractive shape.

The Bank of England presents the following statements: Circulation.....£20,000,000 Decrease.....£430,885 Public deposits.....10,492,086 Increase.....495,920 Other do.....10,669,684 Decrease